What is Geography?

More than making maps

Geography is a unique discipline in that it integrates the physical and social sciences. We focus on the changing interactions between people and their environments at local, national and global scales. Key questions that interest us include: Are we using resources sustainably? What are the impacts of environmental change (e.g., climate) on societies in different places? How should we interpret and understand the spatial distribution of economic, political and social activity? Geographers are more than map-makers (though they are that, too) – they are planners, researchers, educators and decision makers whose interests focus on some of society’s most pressing questions.

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Our Programs
We offer fully funded studentships for MA, MSc, and PhD studies. Our graduate program attracts students from across Canada and around the world, and provides opportunities for field-based scientific and social scientific studies in a wide variety of areas. Our program offers the chance to interact with a diverse array of fellow students and to live and study in St. John’s, the culturally vibrant capital of the ruggedly beautiful province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Our graduates go on to further advanced study, university faculty positions, and NGO, government and private-sector employment.

Masters
The Master of Arts and Master of Science programs are thesis-based programs, and may be completed through full-time or part-time study. Students in these programs typically complete four courses and conduct research, fieldwork and thesis writing under the direction of a supervisory committee composed of supervisor(s) and committee member(s). Each candidate will also present a seminar on their research in the department.

PhD
The PhD program in geography offers the opportunity for advanced study, research and writing, leading to a doctoral dissertation. PhD applicants must have completed either a Master of Arts or a Master of Science degree, or its equivalent, in geography or a related discipline. Under the supervision of a committee of faculty members, the PhD student will complete coursework, a comprehensive examination, and the preparation and oral defense of a dissertation based on their research.

How to Apply?
We encourage students from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and with strong academic qualifications. Typically, we admit students with a high 'B' average (75 percent) or better, and with relevant scholastic and personal experience.

Potential graduate students should contact the faculty member(s) that they think they might like to work with, ideally well in advance of their application. You can also check our homepage for announcements of funded studentship opportunities at www.mun.ca/geog.

Applications for both master’s (MA and MSc) and doctoral programs can be submitted at any time. Students are normally admitted for September, but we also admit students for programs commencing in January and May. We begin evaluating student applications January 15 for fall admission; however, you may apply to the department at any time.

For application forms and more information, see www.mun.ca/become/graduate/.

Research Clusters
At Memorial, a series of thematic research clusters serves to unite and define the diverse research interests and activities of faculty and graduate students alike, while allowing us to grow in new directions. Our five main clusters are:

Globalization, economy and resources
Sample projects: mining and northern development; spatial economics of resource regions; trade and traffic of electronic discards (e-waste); immigration and inclusion in deindustrialized cities

Climate and environmental change
Sample projects: treeline expansion and climate change; marine conservation mapping and assessment

Society, knowledge and values
Sample projects: assessing understanding of climate variability; reliability of volunteered geographical information; marine forecasting

Sustainable communities and regions
Sample projects: sustainable Arctic communities; innovation in coastal fisheries regimes; global small-scale fisheries

Health and well-being
Sample projects: medical geography and spatial epidemiology (in collaboration with Faculty of Medicine); well-being in fisheries communities.

Fieldwork in stunning landscapes and culturally interesting places is an exciting part of the geography experience.